

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00919 030908Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 /078 W
----- 106472

R 030830Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

FOSIF WESTPAC KAMISEYA JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MASS ET

SUBJECT: EPMG DEPLOYMENT OF F-5AS IN ERITREAN INSURGENCY

REF: USDAO ADDIS 310800Z OCT 75

1. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOURCE IN REFTEL, ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE (EAF) HAS BEEN EMPLOYING F-5A AIRCRAFT IN ERITREA SINCE LAST SPRING. MOST RECENTLY, SINCE EARLY OCTOBER, F-5AS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN SORTIES OF TWO AIRCRAFT WHICH APPARENTLY ARE BROUGHT UP DAILY FROM OTHER EAF BASES OUTSIDE ERITREA, ALTHOUGH F-5AS HAVE, FROM TIME TO TIME, BEEN BASED IN ASMARA. ON MORNING OF OCT. 17, CONGEN OFFICER OBSERVED SIX F-5AS WITHOUT CAMOUFLAGE AND ONE WITH CAMOUFLAGE AT ASMARA MILITARY AIRFIELD. CONGEN HAS NO FIRSTHAND REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT OF CAMOUFLAGED F-5AS AGAINST INSURGENTS, BUT NOTWITHSTANDING "VALIANT ATTEMPT" ALLUDED TO BY SOURCE IN REFTEL, PAST ACTIONS ON PART EAF MAKE IT OBVIOUS THAT EAF HAS LITTLE CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF COMMITMENT OF NEWLY ACQUIRED AIRCRAFT ON ERITREAN ATTITUDES
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00919 030908Z

TOWARD USG. EQUALLY CONGEN HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION

TO INDICATE THAT EAF, OR ANY OTHER ARM OF THE EPMG ARMED
FORCES, FOR THAT MATTER, HARBOR ANY CONCERN THAT INTRODUCTION
OF NEWLY ACQUIRED U.S. EQUIPMENT MIGHT FURTHER
JEOPARDIZE WELL-BEING OF FOUR AMERICAN ABDUCTEES. IT HAS BEEN
APPARENT SINCE INTENSE FIGHTING BEGAN IN FEB. THAT EPMG PRIME
CONCERN, TO EXCLUSION OF VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, HAS
BEEN ANNIHILATION OF ERITREAN INSURGENTS, WHO EPMG CONTINUES TO
INSIST ARE SIMPLY "SHIFTAS," WITHOUT REGARD FOR CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES OR EFFECT ON USG INTERESTS.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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